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## EDITORIALS.

—THE Forty-Third Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science took place in Brooklyn, commencing on August 15. The weather was propitious and members attended to the number of 475. Many meritorious papers were read, and the addresses of the Vice-Presidents presented science in its varied aspects. The introductory address, in reply to the welcome of the citizens of Brooklyn, by the President, Dr. D. G. Brinton, was an admirable exposition of the methods and aims of science. Four lectures were delivered in the evening—the address of the retiring President, Professor Harkness, and three by Messrs Fernow, DuChaillu and Cope. The citizens of Brooklyn entertained the Association with unusual hospitality in the matter of excursions. The neighborhood of New York offers many opportunities in this direction, of which the Association freely availed itself.

The Association has, for several years, missed from its meetings an important contingent of the workers of the country. We refer especially to the anatomists, embryologists and physiologists. The principal object of the Association is to present to the American public an illustration of the work done by the investigators of the country, that they may, in some degree, understand its value. The absence of these gentlemen reduces the value of the Association as an object lesson, and detracts from the force of the impression which the Association should make. Their absence diminishes the prestige of the workers in science in this country. Original research is but little endowed in America, and it is likely to remain so unless the investigators make themselves and their needs known.

The newspapers of Brooklyn gave good reports of the meeting, but those of New York, with some few exceptions, burlesqued the Association. This shows that mental degeneracy is not confined to the rulers of New York, but has gotten a strong hold on the alleged intelligence of the city, viz.: the Press. As New York, however, is not the United States, this matters little, except to New York.

THE tariff bill which has just passed Congress contains the following provisions, which benefit scientific work in this country. The Congressional Committees which have prepared it have been interviewed from time to time by members of the committee appointed for that pur-

pose by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with the result of placing on the free list the following items: Scientific books and periodicals devoted to original scientific research, and publications issued for their subscribers by scientific and literary associations or academies, or publications of individuals for gratuitous private circulation, and public documents issued by foreign governments; books and pamphlets printed exclusively in languages other than English.

All manufactures of metals not otherwise provided for, reduced from 45 to 35 per cent. ad valorem, or a reduction of 22 per cent.

These provisions almost remove the onerous and disgraceful tax on education and science, which characterized the McKinley bill. It only remains to continue the work, so well begun, of the removing the tax on philosophical apparatus. The Association continued the committee.

THE address of Lord Salisbury at Oxford before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, as its President, is a general review of the present status of selected leading questions in all of the great departments of scientific research. These are treated in a simple and straightforward manner, so as to be fully comprehensible to the lay member. The value of such an address, in informing the public of the nature of the problems which have been solved and are awaiting solution by scientific research, is great. It will also benefit the cause of science in England that so distinguished a member of the ruling class should espouse it in so conspicuous a manner. Lord Salisbury adopts the hypothesis of organic evolution, but, like Lord Kelvin, declines to regard Darwinism as a full exposition of it. Against it he appeals to the evidence of intelligent design to be seen in the organic world. He does not refer to the doctrine of kinetogenesis, which so well explains the nature of design. He is not, however, prepared to accept as a necessary corollary of the fact of evolution, the origin of man from preëxistent *Quadrumanas*, but calls it "not proven." This is probably as much as we can expect at this time from any one who is not a specialist in biology.

WE understand that among the animals imported from India by W. K. Vanderbilt for his park near Newport, R. I., are several mangooses. It is important that these animals should not escape from confinement, as they will inflict great injury on the native and domesticated fauna should they do so. They multiply rapidly and devour every living thing sufficiently important to serve them as food, whether they live under the ground, on the ground, or at a distance above the ground to

which they can climb. Having no natural enemies in the country, they would become a much greater evil than the English sparrow. Their importation, except for zoological gardens, should be forbidden.

SOME industrious persons are endeavoring to utilize parts of the great Palisade dyke of the Hudson for paving-stone. The New York journals are publishing protests against this vandalism, which will, we hope, have the effect of preserving this imposing feature of the scenery of that region.